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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 26 July 1950

SUBJECT Coast Lights and Searchlights Along the
Baltic Coast

NO. OF PAGES 2

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF
INFO.

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The following coast lights along the Baltic coast burn
with their normal prewar characteristics in their charted
positions:

Steinort (Almenrags)

Group 3.

Lackofen (Uzava)

Group 4.

2. Searchlight activity along the coast:

Numerous shore searchlights are switched on at 30-minute
intervals. One searchlight position is about 1 nautical
mile NE of Steinort lighthouse. A second is 1 or 2 nau-
tical miles south of Lackofen Lighthouse.

3. These searchlights are operated independently as regards
time but the 30-minute interval is exactly observed.
4. The searchlights, for a 3-minute period, sweep the water
area and the beach in their sector. They do not overlap
so that there is always a dark section of the beach which
can be approached without detection.
5. Their power is not known, but they are strong enough
to make objects ashore, such as beacons, distinctly
visible at a distance of 2 to 4 nautical miles.
6. The searchlights are obviously installed near sea
level so that they cannot pick up boats of low silhouette
at a distance of 8 nautical miles off shore, which is
practically below the horizon.
7. Farther to the south, at about the same distance from
Steinort lighthouse, is another searchlight of the same
power.

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Comment:

- a. The report confirms that the Soviets systematically equip the coast with searchlights in an effort to prevent night landings.
- b. In particularly endangered waters, such as the Irish Strait, searchlights are installed on both sides of the passage.

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